

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

Claim 1. (Currently Amended): A An isolated cell, which cell is diploid and possesses at least one pluripotential characteristic, which characteristic includes the ability to differentiate into at least one selected tissue type, and which cell comprises at least part of the cytoplasm ~~derived~~ from a mammalian embryonal stem cell or mammalian embryonal germ cell combined with a nucleus of a mammalian somatic cell.

Claim 2. (Currently Amended): A The cell according to claim 1 characterized ~~characterised~~ in that said pluripotential characteristic includes the ability of said cell to proliferate in culture in an undifferentiated state.

Claim 3. (Currently Amended): A The cell according to claim 2 characterized ~~characterised~~ in that said cell has the capacity to proliferate in continuous culture in an undifferentiated state for at least six months and ideally 12 months.

Claim 4. (Currently Amended): A The cell according to claim 1 characterized ~~characterised~~ in that said pluripotential characteristic includes the expression of at least one selected marker of pluripotential cells.

Claim 5. (Currently Amended): A The cell according to claim 4 characterized ~~characterised~~ in that said selected marker is expression of Oct4.

Claim 6. (Currently Amended): A The cell according to ~~Claim 1~~ claim 4 characterized ~~characterised~~ in that said ~~pluripotential characteristic includes the expression of at least one selected marker of pluripotential cells~~ selected marker is a cell surface marker.

Claim 7. (Currently Amended): A The cell according to claim 6 characterized ~~characterised~~ in that said cell surface marker is selected from the group consisting of ~~including~~:

SSEA-1 (-); ~~and/or~~ SSEA-3 (+);~~and/or~~ SSEA-4 (+);~~and/or~~ TRA-1-60 (+);~~and/or~~ TRA-1-81 (+);~~and/or~~ and alkaline phosphatase (+).

Claim 8. (Currently Amended): A The cell according to claim 1 characterized ~~characterised~~ in that said pluripotential characteristic includes the presence of telomerase activity in said pluripotential cell.

Claim 9. (Cancelled).

Claim 10. (Currently Amended): A The cell according to claim 1 characterised in that said pluripotential characteristic includes the ability to induce tumours when introduced into an animal.

Claim 11. (Previously Presented): A cell-line comprising cells according to claim 1.

Claim 12. (Currently Amended): A The cell-line according to ~~Claim 1~~ claim 11 characterized ~~characterised~~ in that said ~~pluripotential characteristic includes the ability to induce tumours when introduced into an animal~~ cell-line is of human origin.

Claim 13. (Currently Amended): A method for preparing the cell according to claim 1 comprising:

(i) combining at least one embryonal ~~stem/embryonal~~ stem or embryonal germ cell with at least one somatic cell;

(ii) removing from said combined cell, the embryonal ~~stem/embryonal~~ stem or embryonal germ cell nucleus;

(iii) culturing said cell under conditions ~~conductive~~ conductive to proliferation and expansion of said cell; and, optionally

(iv) storing said cell culture under suitable storage conditions.

Claim 14. (Currently Amended): A method for preparing the cell according to claim 1 comprising;

- (i) providing at least one embryonal ~~stem/embryonal~~ stem or embryonal germ cell;
- (ii) separating at least part of the cytoplasm from the nucleus of said embryonal ~~stem/embryonal~~ stem or embryonal germ cell;
- (iii) isolating said cytoplasmic part;
- (iv) combining said cytoplasmic part with at least one somatic cell;
- (v) growing said combined cell in culture; and optionally
- (vi) storing said combined cell under suitable storage conditions.

Claim 15. (Currently Amended): A The method according to claim 14 characterized ~~characterised~~ in that said cytoplasmic part is provided as a cytoplasm.

Claim 16. (Currently Amended): A The method according to claim 15 characterized ~~characterised~~ in that said cytoplasm is combined with said somatic cell via ~~cytoplasm/somatic~~ cytoplasm-somatic cell fusion.

Claim 17. (Currently Amended): A The method according to claim 13 characterized ~~characterised~~ in that said embryonal ~~stem/embryonal~~ stem or embryonal germ cell and somatic cell are of human origin.

Claim 18. (Currently Amended): A cell culture comprising ~~at least~~ at least one cell according to claim 1.

Claim 19. (Withdrawn): A method for inducing differentiation of at least one cell according to Claim 1 comprising;

- (i) providing a cell according to Claim 1;

(ii) culturing said cell under conditions conducive to the differentiation of said cell into at least one tissue; and, optionally

(iii) storing of said differentiated tissue prior to use under suitable storage conditions.

Claim 20. (Withdrawn): A method of Claim 19 characterised in that said method provides a tissue type selected from at least one of the following; neural, smooth-muscle, striated muscle, cardiac muscle, bone, cartilage, liver, kidney, respiratory epithelium haematopoietic cells, spleen, skin, stomach, intestine.

Claim 21. (Withdrawn): At least one tissue type or organ comprising at least one cell according to Claim 1.

Claim 22. (Withdrawn): A therapeutic composition comprising;

(i) at least one cell according to Claim 1; and

(ii) a suitable excipient, diluant or carrier.

Claim 23. (Withdrawn): A therapeutic composition according to Claim 22 characterised in that said therapeutic composition provided for use in tissue transplantation.

Claim 24. (Withdrawn): A method to treat conditions or diseases requiring transplantation of tissue comprising;

(i) providing at least one tissue type or organ according to Claim 21;

(ii) surgically introducing said tissue or organ into a patient to be treated; and

(iii) treating said patient under conditions which are conducive to the acceptance of said transplanted tissue by said patient.

Claim 25. (Previously Presented): A kit comprising at least one cell according to claim 1; instructions with respect to maintenance of said cell in culture; and, optionally, factors required to induce differentiation of said cell to at least one desired tissue type or organ.